The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor investigations in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1542 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 44

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Excuse us for laughing, but we have just been listening to John L. Lewis on the radio. There was only one thing missing from his skit. The radio people should have provided sound effects of a swelled head being inflated to such extreme limits that it burst.

But there are serious and even tragic aspects to every comedy and this case is no exception. We are going to discuss them fully from here on. And we want to make it clear that we have no political axes to grind and that our remarks must not be interpreted as favoring either side in the Presidential race.

We cannot, however, suppress our delight that the entire nation is now discovering for itself what we have been shouting from the housetops for years—that John L. Lewis is just as honest, just as sincere, and just as loyal as a rat.

In 1935 Lewis ratted on the American Federation of Labor which had saved his own union from going under because of his own, pig-headed mismanagement. Now, in 1940, Lewis is ratting on the New Deal and a lot of people who couldn't see things our way before are beginning to share our feelings about him.

Who are the Pied Pipers of Hamelin who have lured Lewis from his political hiding places into the open? Well, believe it or not, they are Girdler, Weir and Grace, the steel moguls at whom Lewis has snarled so bitterly in the past. They offered to bolt in the form of contracts which would hand their employes over to him regardless of the wishes of these employes when Lewis has never succeeded in organizing them. His bait smells to high heaven. But there is no accounting for a rat's appetite.

The "Ratzi" Line

Why did Lewis desert Roosevelt? Because rats traditionally desert a sinking ship? We doubt that was the reason. There is no evidence to indicate that Roosevelt is lagging in the race. On the contrary, the polls show him ahead.

The fact is that Lewis ran out on the New Deal because Roosevelt finally put his foot down and refused to take dictation from the C.I.O. dictator. When it came to a showdown between the requirements of national defense and the requirements of John L. Lewis, the President took the patriotic way.

In this connection, we cannot pass up Lewis' cracks against the Administration's foreign policy, which has been endorsed in every particular by Willkie and by the vast majority of American citizens. Lewis accused Roosevelt of "war-mongering" and declared he should try to "promote and maintain peace" instead of trying to "promote or create war." Newspaper columnist Ernest K. Lindley interprets this as meaning that Lewis wants Great Britain to surrender to the Nazis and he calls Lewis' speech "the most outspoken plea for appeasement that has been made by any public figure in this campaign, except Lindbergh." Mr. Lindley finds support for this conclusion in the fact that Lewis "has fallen under the influence of the Communistic left wing of the C.I.O."

In other words, Lewis is not only a rat, but a "ratsi," as Winchell terms the Fifth-Column breed.

Three Strikes Are Out

Now, what of Lewis' followers in the C.I.O.? They are not following him any longer. Every one of the strongly established unions in the C.I.O., including his own United Mine Workers, is in revolt against his pro-Nazi leadership. His closest associates among the so-called liberal bloc listened to his words with amazement and disgust. They immediately declared their independence of the Lewis dictatorship.

In our judgment, the truest words Lewis ever spoke were when he said he didn't control a single vote of labor. He said it, but he didn't believe it. The men and women of labor will prove it to him.

The comic angle of it is that the only CIO groups that rushed in to endorse Lewis' stand were the Communist-controlled paper unions. It strains the credulity of the American people to think that such as Curran, Quill and Bridges could honestly swallow the Republican pill that Lewis handed them. Yet it shouldn't be so surprising. After the way the Communists swallowed the Stalin-Hitler pact, the new alliance between Lewis and the G.O.P. shouldn't choke them.

Finally, we come to Lewis' threat to resign as the head of the C.I.O. if the members of the C.I.O. do not uphold his political betrayal. Let us remember that this is the third time Lewis has threatened, or promised, to resign. The first offer came when Lewis was embarrassed by demands for labor peace in 1938. The fake nature of this gesture was immediately exposed. It was pointed out that Lewis would not be deprived of the C.I.O. because of his position as head of the United Mine Workers, which pays him $25,000 a year. The second time Lewis used the resignation dodge was at the last convention of the C.I.O. when the left-wing C.I.O. leaders rebelled against his refusal to negotiate for labor peace and his dealings with the Communists.

This time he'll only no longer work. Let us remind Lewis that under the roles of the game in this country, three strikes are out.

AFL Unions Study Security Status Of Federal, State and City Workers

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor sent letters to Senator Robert F. Wagner and Representative John W. McCormack, sponsors of the bill (S. 4260 and H. R. 10824) providing for extension of social security benefits, asking them to limit in advance the provisions which would give coverage under the act to federal, state and local government employes until affected unions of such workers can work out some method of protecting the status of their members. The letter was prepared by various federal, state and local pension plans.

The letter was drafted after a conference held by the Social Security Committee of the American Federation of Labor with representatives of the following affiliated unions: American Federation of Government Employes, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, American Federation of Teachers, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Association of Letter Carriers, National Federation of Post Office Clerks, Railway Mail Association, Building Service Employes International Union of Milwaukee, Operating Engineers Local 143 of Chicago.

At this meeting it was agreed that further conferences be held during the consideration of the American Federation of Labor opening November 18 in New Orleans to work out specific formula, to protect the interests of all workers whether now covered by federal, state or not, with the objective of having the Wagner-McCormack bill amended along the lines determined.

Jack Dempsey, In Role of Arbitrator, Gives Office Workers a Square Deal

New York, N. Y.—Shakespeare had his Portia but organized labor has a judge of equal renown, a just judge, an honorable judge, a hated judge —none other than Jack Dempsey.

The former heavyweight champion of the world, known in the sports columns as the Manassa Mauler, squared off against a tough problem on behalf of Supreme Court Justice J. Sidney Bernstein, of this city, who appointed him arbitrator in a dispute between the members of American Federation of Bookkeeping, Stenographers and Accountants Local No. 20940 and their employer, the Neo Gravure Printing Company.

Take it from the members of this union—Jack Dempsey scored a clean knockout in the first round.

His arbitration award, which takes effect Nov. 1, gave the employes a ten per cent increase in pay, a forty-hour week, a vacation of a half day every month, a paid vacation with pay, sick leave, seniority, a preferential shop and other fine provisions for the benefit of employes.

Dempsey revealed that Dempsey has a one hundred per cent union record and that his restaurants in New York are fully organized by union labor.

WAGE-HOUR HEAD'S RIGHT TO SEE PAY ROLLS UPHELD

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery, Ward & Co., Chicago mail order house, must permit the Wage and Hour Division to inspect its pay roll records in connection with the administration of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

The court refused to review a decision by the Federal Circuit Court of Chicago which ruled that pay rolls may be requisitioned as one of the functions of the Wage and Hour Division in its routine enforcement activities.

Montgomery, Ward and Co. had challenged the Wage-Hour Administrator's authority to inspect the pay rolls of 2,000 employes at the firm's branch store in Kansas City, Mo. The company contended the administrator was attempting unreasonable "search and seizure" prohibited by the Fourth Amendment to the Federal Constitution and that the Wage-Hour Division's subpoena violated the firm's right under the Fifth or "due process of law" Amendment.

Philip H. Ward, Wage and Hour Administrator, issued a statement asserting "There can be no excuse for any employer refusing access to pay roll records to Wage and Hour Division inspectors in view of the court's refusal . . . to review the Montgomery, Ward decision."

OREGON COURT KILLS ANTI-PICKETING LAW

Upholds A. F. of L. Claim That Statute Violated Right of Free Speech

The Oregon Supreme Court in a peacemaking decision of great consequence to labor declared the Oregon Anti-Picketing law invalid. This law, passed two years ago by referendum vote, made it a crime for a single worker or a minority group of workers to peacefully picket an employer with whom they were in dispute.

The American Federation of Labor and the Railroad Brotherhoods joined in a suit to have the law declared unconstitutional. The litigation was in charge of Joseph A. Padway, counsel of the A. F. of L., and D. A. Green, counsel for the Oregon State Federation of Labor. The lower court upheld the law, whereupon the case was appealed to the Supreme Court. Briefs and arguments were presented to the Court on behalf of the American Federation of Labor, the Oregon State Federation of Labor and the Railroad Brotherhoods.

The principal attack on the law was that it violated the Constitutional rights of workers the exercise of their constitutional right of freedom of speech. The Oregon Court agreed with this contention and based its decision on the Thornhill case wherein the American Federation of Labor made a similar attack on the Alabama Anti-Picketing statute. The United States Supreme Court declared the Alabama law invalid on that ground and the Oregon Supreme Court followed the United States Court in the Thornhill case.

In outlawing the Oregon law the Supreme Court of that State said:

"By the decisions in the Thornhill and Carlson cases, it is now established that picketing as an incident to a labor dispute is not to be denied on its phases an exercise of the right of freedom of speech. . . .

"The Supreme Court has announced a broad construction of the guaranties of freedom of speech and the publication and applying this conception to laws aimed at picketing, has held that abridgment of the facts of a labor dispute in a peaceful way through appropriate means, whether by pamphlets, by word of mouth or by banners is within the liberty of communication and applying this conception to the Fourteenth Amendment against abridgement by a state. . . . The prohibition of the statute under review clearly include picketing in bona fide labor controversies. . . .

"It has now been determined by the highest court in the land that a law of this kind cannot stand as against the right of free speech of the speech in the Federal Constitution."

Commenting on the decision, Mr. Padway said:

"With this notable decision of the Oregon Supreme Court, and the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Thornhill case, and the decision rendered by the Superior Ordinance of Shasta County, California, it seems certain that similar enactments in Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Michigan Legislatures are doomed to defeat."

UNIVERSITY HEAD GRATEFUL FOR AFL EDUCATIONAL AID

Appreciation of the important aid given by the Montana State Federation of Labor in expanding the educational facilities of the Montana State University was expressed by President Geneva Finlay Simmons of that institution.

The recent convention of the State Federation of Labor adopted a resolution pledging support for the passage at the November election of a fifth mill tax levy on property to be used for expanding the state university system. In a letter to James D. Graham, president of the Montana State Federation of Labor, thanking him for lodging the aid given by the Federation, President Simmons said:

"You no doubtless fully conversant with the fact that the parents of a large number of students in the university form a true cross section of every possible trade and profession practiced by the people of Montana and hence many of our students earn a part or all of their expenses for a college education. Many of the sons and daughters of several hundred members of the various trades and labor groups are attending this institution. We estimate that a fifth of our students have come from families representing labor and the trades, another fifth from small-town merchant families, a fifth from the ranches and farms, a fifth from employees of municipalities, counties, states and nation and less than a fifth from professions of various sorts. Certainly the families of labor and the trades and crafts are securing a very fine public service for their sons and daughters at about half the cost per student expended by first-class institutions representing states."

News Briefs

INT'L LABOR PRESS MEETS IN NEW ORLEANS NOV. 18

Springfield, Ill.—The annual meeting of the International Labor Press of America will be held in the banquet room of the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, on Monday evening, November 18, R. E. Woodmansee, secretary-treasurer of the organization, announced.

"All members of our association will be extended the privilege of inviting delegates to the A. F. of L. convention in the matter of entertainment provided by the New Orleans Federation of Labor," Mr. Woodmansee said. "The American Federation of Labor will furnish guest badges for all members of our association who are not regular delegates to the A. F. of L. convention."

SEIDE HEADS WISCONSIN STATE LABOR FEDERATION

Milwaukee, Wis.—The executive board of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor appointed Herman Seide, general secretary of the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council, to the office of president of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor to succeed the late Henry Ohlhaber, who died from a heart attack in Washington, D. C., after having served in that capacity for 23 years. Mr. Seide is a member of Carpenters Union No. 264. He served several terms as business agent for that local and has been general secretary of the Trades Council for six years.

CASKET COMPANY EMPLOYES ROLL UP BIG AFL MAJORITY

Oneida, N. Y.—The American Federation of Labor received a dodge of votes here for collective bargaining representative in an election among the employes of the National Casket Company. Of 176 ballots cast, 168 were for the A. F. of L.

ST. LOUIS STRIKE CALLED BY AFL BUILDING TRADES

St. Louis, Mo.—A strike vote by business agents of the A. F. of L. Building Trades here to obtain 100 per cent unionization in the construction industries in St. Louis and St. Louis county resulted in approximately 10,000 building trades workmen walking out. The strike was voted following a struggle with architects in front of a nonunion construction project in which one picket, a union plasterer, was clubbed to death.

CANADIAN LABOR SUPPORTS OFFICE OF ILO IN CANADA

The recent convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress adopted a vigorous resolution favoring the establishment of a branch office of the International Labor Office in the Dominion. The resolution declared:

"This Congress wholeheartedly endorses the Canadian Government in inviting the International Labor Office to establish an office in Canada and in doing so assumes the organizational and wholehearted support in continuing its essential activities and in maintaining the mechanism of international collaboration between workers, employers and governments which will be indispensable in the work of reconstruction when peace has been re-established."

AFL ELECTRICAL UNION WINS POLL AT LEVITON COMPANY

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Local No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A. F. of L., affiliate, selected by an overwhelming majority in a collective bargaining election among employes of the Leviton Manufacturing Company, 236 Greenpoint Avenue, where a strike had been in progress since August 28. Of 1,489 eligible to vote, 1,283 actually cast ballots. Of these, 1,030 voted for the local and only 70 against it.

WAGE INCREASE SOUGHT BY N. Y. HOTEL WORKERS

New York, N. Y.—Officials of the Hotel Trades Council, A. F. of L., started negotiations here with the Hotel Association of New York City for a blanket increase of ten per cent in the wages of 20,000 hotel workers. The council demands a minimum pay raise of $2 a week for all employes in the 80 hotels covered by A. F. of L. contracts. Other demands include a 40-hour week for engineering and maintenance workers and 44 hours for all others, an increase in paid vacations from one week to two for employes who have worked two years or more in the same establishment, and an agreement by the hotels to pay workers drafted for military service the difference between Army pay and their normal earnings.

TWO MILLION AFFECTED BY FORTY-HOUR WEEK

Washington, D. C.—Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, estimated that approximately 2,000,000 working men and women were affected by the reduction of the work week from 42 to 40 hours on October 24, under the provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Overtime at the rate of time and a half in excess of 40 hours must be paid employes in industries affected by the law.

CIO Split Wide Open by Lewis' Political Betrayal; Green Denounces Him as "General Without Army"

Text of Mr. Green's Statement

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement on the Lewis sell-out:

No person can deliver the votes of Labor to any political candidate, or to any political party. The American Federation of Labor has never presumed to do so. It has evolved and followed a non-partisan political policy. It is partisan to principles—the principles of right-ousness, freedom, justice and loyalty.

Because of this fact, the address delivered by Mr. Lewis will cause resentment among the men and women of Labor. They resent the attempt of any alleged leader of Labor to deliver their votes to any political candidate or any political party.

True to its non-partisan political policy, the American Federation of Labor refrains from bringing pressure to bear upon its members to support a candidate for President of the United States, or a political party. It guarantees to its five million members the right to vote in accordance with the dictates of conscience. As a result, unity and solidarity prevail within the ranks of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Lewis pursues an opposite policy. He seeks to exercise pressure upon the membership of the CIO to support a political party. As a result, division, discord and hatred have arisen within the CIO. Mr. Lewis is a general without an army. Behold the comparison: The American Federation of Labor united, with goodwill and tranquility prevailing within its ranks during a heated political campaign; the CIO torn with dissension, divided politically, because its leader seeks to compel it to support a political party. The membership of the CIO has now become disillusioned.

The reference made by Mr. Lewis in his address to dictatorship is ironical, as well as amusing. He created the CIO because of his consuming desire to be a dictator over American Labor. He speaks as a dictator when he moved from five million members the right to vote in accordance with the dictates of conscience. As a result, unity and solidarity prevail within the ranks of the American Federation of Labor.

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The vigorous denunciation of